

Claims 40-47 have been amended to more particularly define the present invention.

Support for the claim amendments is readily apparent from the teachings of the specification and the original claims. Specifically, Applicants have limited the scope of the pending claims to “glycerolipids” to expediate allowance of the present application. It must be noted, however, that these amendments have been effected without prejudice. In other words, Applicants intend to file a Divisional Application directed to “glyceroglycolipid” at a later date. Thus, Applicants reserve their right to do so in this regard.

With regard to the rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 and 103 as set forth in items 2-4 of the Official Action, these rejections are deemed to be untenable in view of the amendments to the claims and are thus respectfully traversed.

As it is well known under U.S. practice, to constitute anticipation of the claimed invention, a single prior art reference must disclose each and every material element of the claim. Further, to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the cited references in combination must teach or suggest the invention as a whole and include all the limitations of the claims. Here, in this case, none of the cited references teach or suggest *a method of inducing apoptosis comprising administering an apoptosis inducing agent which comprises glycerolipid as the effective component, to an individual.*

The cited references of Winget, Yazawa et al. and Nojima et al., are directed to the anti-inflammatory action of glyceroglycolipid, the inhibitory action of glyceroglycolipid on carcinogenic promoter, and the anti-tumor action of glyceroglycolipid, respectively. However, there are no teaching or suggestion in these cited references as to the physiological activity of

glycerolipid. Likewise, the cited references of Nakai et al and Nelson also do not cured that which is missing in Winget, Yazawa et al. and Nojima et al.

Thus, since the cited references fail to teach or suggest a limitation of the claims, these rejections can no longer be sustained and should be withdrawn

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "**Version with markings to show changes made.**"

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the Application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is thus respectfully solicited.

If, however, the Examiner has any suggestions for expediting allowance of the application or believes that direct communication with Applicants' attorney will advance the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The claims have been amended as follows.

40. (Thrice Amended) A method of inducing apoptosis comprising administering an apoptosis inducing agent which comprises glycerolipid [and/or glyceroglycolipid] as the effective component[(s)], to an individual.

41. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said glycerolipid [and/or glyceroglycolipid is/are] is derived from plants, microorganisms or animals.

42. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 41, wherein said glycerolipid [and/or glyceroglycolipid is/are] is derived from tea, mushrooms, algae or cereal residues.

43. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 41, wherein said glycerolipid [and/or glyceroglycolipid is/are] is extracted from plants, microorganisms or animals with an organic solvent.

44. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein said glycerolipid [and/or glyceroglycolipid] is treated with an acid or an alkali prior to extraction.

45. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 43, wherein said glycerolipid [and/or glyceroglycolipid] is purified by hydrophobic, reversed phase, or normal phase chromatography.

46. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim[s] 43, wherein said glycerolipid [and/or

glyceroglycolipid is/are] is extracted from tea, mushrooms, algae or cereal residues.

47. (Amended) The method as set forth in claim 40, wherein said glycerolipid consists of fatty acid and glycerol[, and said glyceroglycolipid consists of fatty acid, sugar and glycerol].